

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

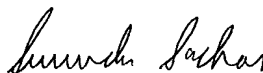
By the present Preliminary Amendment the specification is amended to correct minor informalities, and to update the "Disclosure of the Invention" section to be consistent with the claims.

Further, claims 1-8 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 9-17 are presented for examination. Those new claims are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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